Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malawi and Sri Lanka.

During the aforesaid meeting a draft constitution of the proposed Association, its structure, funding and location of the Secretariat etc. were discussed in detail and it was agreed that the participating countries would forward their observations on the draft documents circulated by the Sri Lankan authorities to the Tea Board of Sri Lanka.

Apart from the discussions on the draft document of the constitution of Association other issues discussed during the meeting were as follows:—

(a) Review of situation arising out of decline in tea prices.

(b) Generic promotion of tea in the overseas markets.

(c) Possible areas of technical cooperation amongst tea producing countries.

(d) Threat to natural tea from artificial substitute products.

(c) Inter-Governmental cooperation in tea research.

Conditions of female agricultural workers

2093. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the female agricultural workers in the country are the most exploited lot without equal remuneration and working conditions and without medical and maternity facilities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the lot of female agricultural workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) In order to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation, several laws have been enacted by the Parliament. The protective legal provisions under different laws include provision of creche for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, separate toilets and washing facilities near workplace, provision of maternity leave etc. In order to prevent economic exploitation of women workers, the Government has also enacted the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 which provides for non-discrimination in the matters relating to payment of wage and other service conditions. Under the Act, the officers notified as Inspectors make inspections and prosecute those found violating the provisions of the Act. The Central Government monitors the implementation of the Act.

Meeting of central provident fund trust

2094. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Central Provident Fund Trust met during the last three years;

(b) the details of each meeting;

(c) what decisions were taken on the agenda;

(d) how many times did the trust meet outside Delhi to review the functioning of the trust;

(e) how many regional offices and subordinates offices were visited by Members of the trust and also the shortcomings found in the functioning of each office; and

(f) how many complaints have been received by the head-quarters, yearwise details during the last three years and action taken and how many complaints are pending for final disposal?